

CLAIMS

1. A call processing method in a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

receiving a call placed by a calling party for a called party at a called
5 communication station;

retrieving a subscriber profile for the called party;

playing to the calling party one of a called party-provided greeting and
a greeting announcement;

if a recorded name screening feature is active,

10 prompting the calling party for identification, and

recording the spoken identification provided by the calling party;

if the called party is engaged in a call, providing an

announcement and entering a call waiting process;

15 otherwise, routing the call to a directory number in accordance
with the subscriber profile;

playing to the called communication station one of a predefined
announcement and the recorded spoken identification;

determining from the subscriber profile if caller ID screening is
active for the called party;

20 if so, determining if a calling directory number is available
for the call;

if so, providing the calling party directory number
to the called communication station;

25 otherwise, if the calling directory number is not
unknown, announcing an unavailable
directory number to the called
communication station;

prompting the called party to enter a call routing option;

30 detecting a call routing option entered at the called
communication station;

if the entered call routing option corresponds to rejecting the call, routing the call to a reject-call default destination; and

5 if the entered call routing option corresponds to accepting the call, connecting the call between the calling party with the called party.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining if the subscriber profile is valid.

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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
detecting a called directory number associated with the call;
determining if the called directory number is available; and
if the called directory number is not available, prompting the calling
15 party to enter a desired directory number.

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4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
after playing a greeting to the calling party, determining if a screening
list feature is active;
20 if so, determining if a number associated with the calling party is available;
if so, determining if the number associated with the calling party is on a screening list of the called party; and
if so, routing the call to a screening-list default destination at the
25 platform;

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5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
when the call is routed to one of the screening list default destination
and the reject-call default destination,
30 determining if the default destination corresponds to a telephone number;

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if so, playing an announcement to the calling party and directing
the call to the telephone number;

otherwise, determining if the default destination corresponds to an
announcement;

5 if so, playing the announcement and disconnecting the call;
otherwise, determining if the default destination corresponds to voice
mail; and

if so, providing a voice mail announcement and routing the call
to voice mail.

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6. The method of claim 1 wherein playing to the called
communication station one of a predefined announcement and the recorded
spoken identification comprises:

determining if the recorded name screening feature is activated;

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if not, connecting to the end office switch associated with the
called communication station and providing the
predefined announcement to the called communication
station from the platform;

if the recorded name screening feature is activated, determining
if the recorded spoken identification is available,

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if so, connecting to the end office switch which is
associated with the called communication station
and providing an announcement including the
recorded spoken identification to the called
communication station from the platform, and

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otherwise, connecting to the end office switch which is
associated with the called communication station
and providing an unknown caller announcement to
the called communication station from the
platform.

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7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

if caller ID screening is active for the called party; and if the
calling directory number is unavailable, determining if the
calling directory number is blocked;
if so, connecting to the end office switch which is
5 associated with the called communication station
and announcing a blocked directory number to the
called communication station from the platform;
and
otherwise, connecting to the end office switch which is
10 associated with the called communication station and
announcing an unknown directory number to the called
communication station from the platform.

8. A call processing method for a platform operating in a
15 telecommunications system, the call processing method comprising:
receiving a call at the platform, the call placed by a calling party for a
called party at a called communication station;
at the platform, retrieving a subscriber profile for the called party;
playing to the calling party one of a called party-provided greeting and
20 a greeting announcement;
determining if a screening list feature is active;
if so, determining if a number associated with the calling party is
available;
if so, determining if the number associated with the calling party
25 is on a screening list of the called party;
if so, routing the call to a default destination at the platform;
if the number associated with the calling party is not available or
if the number associated with the calling party is not on
the screening list,
30 determining if a recorded name screening feature is active;
if so, prompting the calling party for identification;
recording the spoken identification provided by the calling party;

determining status of the called party;

if the called party is engaged in a call, providing an
announcement and entering a call waiting process;

otherwise, routing the call to a directory number in
accordance with the subscriber profile;

directing network equipment able to communicate with the

called communication station to play to the called
communication station one of a predefined
announcement and the recorded spoken identification;

determining from the subscriber profile if caller ID screening is
active for the called party;

if so, determining if a calling directory number is
available;

if so, announcing the calling party directory

number to the called communication station;

otherwise, if the calling directory number is not
unknown, announcing an unavailable
directory number to the called

communication station;

prompting the called party to accept or reject the call;

detecting a call routing option entered at the called
communication station;

if the call routing option corresponds to rejecting the call,
routing the call to a default destination; and

if the call routing option corresponds to accepting the call,
connecting the call between the calling party with
the called party.